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September 13, 2017

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Docket No. RM 2017-12

Dear Commissioners:


I am writing on behalf of The New York Botanical Garden, our donors/members and, most importantly, those we serve in the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, including many underserved communities. In addition, NYBG is an internationally recognized leader in scientific research, horticultural education, and for its outstanding plant collection which serves an international community.

We simply do not understand why suddenly there is a need to increase nonprofit marketing mail rates for the nominal benefit of commercial marketing mail. This would seem to fly in the face of the rationale of the law granting nonprofits a discounted rate.

As a practical matter, injecting unanticipated increases such as those proposed here by USPS will mean that our fundraising budget will not be able to keep pace with the increase in postage costs. The inevitable result will be a reduction in our use of the mail, a reduction in our revenues, and, in turn, a reduction in our ability to serve our beneficiaries. If our postage rates were to increase, say, 5%, and produce a corresponding 5% loss of revenue, we would not be able to support our programmatic work, our archival collections, and the educational offerings for Bronx communities as we do now.

Please do not change the current system for calculating nonprofit rates implemented by the Postal Service ten years ago. We see no pressing need for a change, especially not one that will do harm to all nonprofits using the mail.

Very truly yours,

  
Stephen Hanson  
Membership Coordinator  
The New York Botanical Garden  
2900 Southern Blvd  
Bronx, NY 10458